

FOIA and Privacy Act requests contained herein within ten days.

Sincerely yours,

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Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL FUNDRAISING

The Senate continued with the consideration of the joint resolution.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Joint Resolution 22, asking that an independent counsel be appointed to investigate the alleged illegal fundraising activities in the 1996 Presidential campaign.

It is in the best interest of both the Nation and the Congress that an independent counsel be appointed. In light of the continued severity of the allegations that arise on a nearly daily basis, this is the only way to properly investigate wrongdoing and prosecute where laws were broken. The requests for an independent counsel have been bipartisan. I have twice written Attorney General Janet Reno and asked that an independent counsel be appointed. To date, I have not received a reply.

We need an independent counsel to supplement congressional hearings. Only an independent counsel has the power to bring charges against those alleged of breaking the law. Congress will investigate, as we should—that is our responsibility—but we need someone looking into this with the ability to prosecute.

I also fear whether Congress will be able to bear the entire responsibility for investigating these alleged campaign finance abuses and still act on the important issues awaiting our attention. We were elected by the people to address the challenges facing America. We were elected to solve problems.

As we look forward to the 21st century, America is faced with serious challenges. Domestically, we must come to terms with our Federal budgetary problems, our national debt, the burden of taxes and regulations, the threat of crime, the explosive growth projected in entitlement programs. Internationally, we need to reshape a foreign policy, a foreign policy that will guide us through the uncharted and potentially treacherous waters of the post-cold-war era. This is a time of great hope, a time of great promise for the world. The fulfillment of this hope

and promise will come only if America demonstrates bold, imaginative leadership, leadership that seizes the moment.

Determining the direction our Nation will take beyond the year 2000 is a very critical debate, one that all the Nation should be involved with. The issues involved require and deserve the full attention of this body. We must not be held hostage by partisan bickering over campaign finance investigations and daily allegations of political wrongdoing.

For example, Medicare's slide into bankruptcy will not wait for a determination of whether campaign finance laws were broken in last year's Presidential campaign. Action needs to be taken now to save Medicare, or America's seniors will pay the price.

If we allow the poison of political retribution and revenge to dominate the Congress, we will never be able to work together on these very important issues. The congressional hearings are important. Surely they are important. Surely they must go forward. But we need to get to the bottom of this mess. At the same time, we cannot allow these hearings to overshadow the present challenges facing this body.

Political leaders frequently express their dismay at the lack of confidence and trust the American people have in them and in all political institutions. However, we bring it on ourselves when the image we present to the American people is one of constant partisan wrangling and bitter accusations.

When we allow our system to become polarized and paralyzed, the American people have to wonder who is on the job, who is looking out for their interests, who is governing America.

The American people are tired of the lack of civility and the inflammatory rhetoric that too frequently dominate the political discourse in Washington. They are tired of the gridlock that results when both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue put political considerations before the Nation's business. The American people want action. They want their elected representatives to give their full attention to the challenges facing this country. They deserve nothing less.

The destiny and legacy of our people is that we have always risen to meet the challenges put before us. As we lead America and the world into the 21st century, we must build on this legacy. Big challenges lie ahead. We fail our children and the children of the world if we allow ourselves to become bogged down in political intrigue and fail to address these important issues now.

Criminal investigations should be taken out of politics. Prosecuting wrongdoing should be done without regard to politics. The Attorney General needs to appoint an independent counsel now.

I thank the Chair and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL-LARD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 22

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, and matters relating to the measures in that order and in Executive Order 12959 of May 6, 1995. This report is submitted pursuant to section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c) (IEEPA), section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c). This report discusses only matters concerning the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 and does not deal with those relating to the emergency declared on November 14, 1979, in connection with the hostage crisis.

1. On March 15, 1995, I issued Executive Order 12957 (60 *Fed. Reg.* 14615, March 17, 1995) to declare a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to IEEPA, and to prohibit the financing, management, or supervision by United States persons of the development of Iranian petroleum resources. This action was in response to actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine the Middle East peace process, and the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. A copy of the order was provided to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate by letter dated March 15, 1995.

Following the imposition of these restrictions with regard to the development of Iranian petroleum resources, Iran continued to engage in activities that represent a threat to the peace and security of all nations, including Iran's continuing support for international terrorism, its support for acts that undermine the Middle East peace process, and its intensified efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. On May 6, 1995, I issued Executive Order 12959 to further respond to the